GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5084
ANSWERED ON:29.04.2008
INDIA S SHARE IN WORLD HERBAL TRADE
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Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether inspite of cultivation and availability of many herbs in the country, India is having very low share in the world trade of herbs;

(b) if so, the share of India in the international trade of herbs during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the reasons identified by the Government for low share in the world trade; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for increasing India`s share in the world trade of herbs?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

a) Yes Sir

b) The share of India in the international trade of herbs during the last three years is as under

Year	Quantity	Value
2005-06	49157.87 MT	315.70 Crs.
2006-07	44577.98 MT	364.52 Crs.
2007-08	50056.89	430.08 Crs.

c) India's low share in the world trade can be attributed to several reasons. Some of them are : resistance in developed markets to traditional systems of medicines, lack of standards and good management practices relating to cultivation of herbs and manufacturing of medicines from them, sourcing of herbs from unregulated forest area in unorganised sectors through traditional non-scientific methods, presence of heavy metals and some toxic substances in some herbal products etc.

d) Following steps have been taken to increase production/increase of herbal medicines.

(i) Mandatory testing of metals in all purely herbal ASU medicines for exports w.e.f. 01.01.2006

(ii) Testing facilities for ASU drugs in the country have been strengthened by up gradation of State Drug Testing Laboratories and accreditation of private drug testing laboratories.

(iii) State Drug Licensing Authorities have been directed to ensure full compliance by all ASU drug manufacturers of the provision of Rule 161(1) and (2) relating to displaying on the label of the container or in a leaflet to be inserted in the package of an ASU drugs, the true list of all the ingredients used in the manufacture of the preparation together with the quantity of each of the ingredients incorporated therein. The relaxation in labelling provision has been made for the export of Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani medicines.

(iv) A research project has been sanctioned to various laboratories to council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) under the Golden Triangle physiochemical characteristics of 8 most widely used Bhasmas and to carry out their toxicity studies. Good manufacturing practices have been made mandatory for all Ayurveda, Siddha and Unnani drug manufacturing units in the country.

(v) Government of India has initiated awareness programmes for educating the industry through its Export Promotion Council, Pharmexcil. Besides, Government has introduced testing facilities for ASU drugs in the country have been strengthened by up gradation of State Drug Testing Laboratories.